

**Amendments to the Specification:**

In the Drawings, Figs. 1, 2A, 2B, and 2C have been revised to include the phrase --Prior Art--. A replacement sheet that incorporates the aforementioned changes is attached herein.

On page 6, line 1 of the Specification, please delete "figure 3 shows" and substitute --figures 3a, 3b, 3c show-- therefor.

In the Abstract of the Disclosure (page 12), at lines 11-12, please delete "means of". A marked-up version of the Abstract, illustrating the aforementioned change, is given below:

**Abstract**

A device for operating a plurality of discharge lamps is to be fashioned cost-effectively. Consequently, two discharge lamps (71, 72) are operated with the aid of one ballast in whose load circuit the heating current for the individual incandescent filaments (711, 712, 721, 722) is transmitted via a heating transformer with three secondary windings ( $L_{hs1}$ ,  $L_{hs2}$ ,  $L_{hs3}$ ). The associated primary winding ( $L_{hp}$ ) is located in a coupling-out circuit (30) with the aid of which the required heating energy is coupled out via an inductor ( $L_{res}$ ). The heating current can be controlled by ~~means~~ of a temperature-sensitive thermistor (PTC).